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THE  
Life and Adventures  
OF  
TOM TACKLE, K  
OF  
L O N D O N,  
Mariner.

Giving an Account of the extraordinary Accidents that befell him both on Land and at Sea; from his first going on the briny Ocean, to his comfortable Retirement near his old Shipmate's Seat in Kent.

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*"Life's like the Sea, in constant motion."*

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TOM TACKLE

L O N D O N



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## P R E F A C E.

*HISTORIES of the Lives of Sailors and Soldiers are generally the work of Fancy; and the incidents they record have seldom had any existence but in the minds of the writers: but, the reader is assured that, the Life and Adventures of TOM TACKLE, contain a faithful Narrative of the accidents that beset an English Seaman in his Voyage from Youth to Old-Age; and are now committed to the press with a view of instructing and amusing those whose youthful years preclude them from a knowledge of Mankind, and to make them acquainted with the habits and disposition of that World of which they are become members, and through which they are fated to pass a probationary Life.*

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*LIFE AND ADVENTURES*

OF  
**TOM TACKLE, &c.**

**C H A P. I.**

*Relates his Birth and Apprenticeship; his leaving his master and going to sea; his return to his master and serving the remainder of his time; his second voyage, in which he gets into favor with the crew, and is noticed by the officers; his courage and intrepidity in stopping a leak in the vessel; and in danger of losing his life by a violent fever into which he was thrown by a too free application of Brandy; his recovery and return to England; his getting into favour with a Wapping landlady, who discards him on his money becoming exhausted; and in consequence of her ingratitude, engaging with the captain of a vessel bound to America.*

**T**HOMAS Tackle, who is the subject of the following narrative, was the son of respectable parents, and at the age of fourteen was placed by his father with a very eminent

tradesman, in the city of London. Tom was naturally of a very roving disposition, and was therefore ill able to bear the necessary confinement of apprenticeship. Neither was Tom very fond of work, but on all occasions discovered an obstinate inclination for idleness, which was derived from his acquaintance with bad companions; for Tom was not naturally so. This circumstance was very disagreeable to his master, and matter of no less regret to his parents, who had several times received complaints against him, as well of his laziness as of the disrespect he always shewed to his master and his whole family.

The remonstrances of his parents, nor the correction of his master, which was frequently liberally and justly bestowed on him for his idleness and impertinence, effected not the least reformation in the behaviour of this youth; but on the contrary his evil habits seemed to increase with his strength and years; so that his master and his parents began to think him incorrigible.

Seeing that he was thus determined to act in direct opposition to every command and advice, his master concluded to send him to sea, as the most

most likely means of curing him of his bad behaviour, and was looking out a birth for him, when Tom, hearing from some of the servants in the house what was going forward, saved him the trouble, by stealing away privately, and entering himself on board a vessel then lying in the river, and bound to India.

This was in the year 1758, in the war between France and her allies, and this country; in which the daring spirit and gallantry of the British navy displayed itself with unexampled lustre, struck terror into the hearts of its enemies, and held in awe and subjection the whole maritime world. In the heat of this contest his present Majesty, King George the third, ascended the throne, amidst the acclamations of a people elated with success, and firmly attached to his person and government.

In this voyage our hero suffered many and great hardships, and learned, by experience, the difference between a service in a quiet regular family on shore, where the tempest never rages, where provisions never fall short, and where the night is passed in quiet and undisturbed slumbers, and that on board a ship exposed to the fury of the elements, where every  
moment



moment teems with destruction, and where the necessary refreshments of nature are often wanted, and night after night spent in laborious and fearful watchings. Ye thoughtless youths, who are placed by the care and attention of your anxious parents beneath the roof of the industrious mechanic, who have opportunities of acquiring a knowledge of trades, by which you will be enabled to earn a future livelihood, when your parents and relatives are no more, and when you can no longer look up to them for assistance, take advice from one, who, though not far in years, has seen no inconsiderable part of the world, in the manners of mankind ! Obey without reluctance the lawful commands of those under whose authority you are placed ; waste not their property, but regulate whatever is committed to your charge with the same care as you would dispose of those things which belong to yourselves ; receive remonstrance as advice, and shew that you consider it as such, by your readiness to alter that part of your behaviour which brought forth complaints.

The history of the industrious and the idle apprentice, as exhibited by the pencil of the inimitable Hogarth, is a fit subject for the contemplation

temptation of those who are under indentures. The happiness resulting from the conduct of the former, and the misery attendant on that of the latter, afford an excellent moral, and I most earnestly recommend those engravings to the attention of such of my readers who at present have assumed, or intend hereafter to take on them, the name of apprentice.

During this voyage, many and often were the times that Tom wished himself at home, and repeatedly did he regret leaving the roof of his master. But his wishes and regrets were unable to extricate him from the difficulties and hardships which his idle and perverse conduct had exposed him to. He was compelled to bear his lot without a friend to whom he could utter his complaints; nor could he find any consolation in his own breast being conscious of having provoked the fate he now suffered. At length, after an absence of eighteen months, Tom bailed the shores of old England, and immediately on his landing, went to the house of his master, with whom he served the remainder of his time. He now appeared ashamed of his former ill conduct, and shewed an intention of settling to his business; and his friends received great pleasure from these circumstances.

Before the time of his apprenticeship expired, Tom lost his parents, a loss which the good advice and kind treatment of his master in some measure supplied; and which rendered this misfortune more easy than under any less favourable circumstances it could have proved. Tom, though he possessed many bad qualities, had nevertheless some good ones. His vices he had acquired from an improvident intercourse and acquaintance with the rude and vulgar; his virtues he inherited from nature. Though always ready to follow bad examples and to join in any sort of mischief, he notwithstanding was capable of good deeds; and it required no great penetration to discover, from the general tenor of his conduct, that he acted wrong through the advice of others, and that when left to the natural bias of his own mind his actions had a tendency towards doing good.

Tom being now his own master, and having met with several of the ship's crew with whom he had sailed to India, they prevailed on him to take another trip to the East, and he engaged with the captain as a man before the mast; in which capacity he commenced his second voyage.

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The jocularity and coarse witticisms of Tom engaged the attention of the fore-castle-men; and his songs and his jests, (for Tom could sing a merry stave, and had always a jest at command,) made him much noticed by the officers of the ship. Tom was too cunning to neglect the means of improving their good opinion, as through them he looked for preferment, and therefore seized every opportunity of rendering them services and contributing to their amusement. In these attempts he was generally successful, for they always treated Tom with civility and respect.

This familiarity of his superiors made him take upon him sometimes more than became him; and frequently exposed him to the insults of the rest of the crew, who saw with an envious and jealous eye the civilities he received, and the notice that was paid him. Tom however, gave them as good as they sent, and paid them in their own coin; so that after a while they let him enjoy at quiet his good fortune, and never troubled themselves with either him or his affairs.

Besides the qualifications of joking and singing, Tom had others of a more important nature,

ture, and which indeed, to the honour of the nation and the navy, few English sailors are destitute of; courage to brave the most formidable danger, and resolution to engage the hardest difficulty. In the moment of peril he was the first to step forward; and was always the most alert and ready in the performance of his duty.

In the course of this voyage he had several opportunities of displaying these last qualifications; the most essential of which was during a violent gale of wind, when the ship had sprung a leak, and her hold was nearly half full of water. Much pains had been taken to discover this leak, but without success; the vessel was hourly in danger of going down, and every succeeding moment became more dangerous. The men at the pump were quite exhausted, the greatest part of the crew flew to prayers, as the only means left to save them from impending destruction; and in short the greatest confusion reigned through the ship. In the midst of this distressing scene, Tom, whose courage and resolution was equal to any danger, and who seemed to set no other value on his life, than as he could render it serviceable to others, with

with the greatest intrepidity dived under her bottom, and fortunately discovered the leak.

"Halloo lads," said he, when he came up, "chearly messmates, chearly brother tars. I have found out the leak. Come bustle, bustle boys, let's have some beef to stop it up. Never despair my hearts of oak, she'll still swim and stem the sea."

This was joyful news to the despairing crew, who immediately prepared the necessary materials for stopping the leak. The officers ordered him plenty of brandy to guard him from catching cold when immersed in the water, and thus prepared he again descended, and after an incredible deal of fatigue, attended with much difficulty and danger, he succeeded in effectually stopping the cause of their extreme danger. In the meanwhile the crew returned to the pumps, and found the water to decrease, and the ship to lighten apace; and after a few hours hard pumping very little water was left in the well, and every appearance of danger vanished.

Tom was now considered by all on board as the preserver of their lives, and they bestow-



ed on him a profusion of thanks and caresses, which though of a coarse and unpolished nature were nevertheless the effusions of grateful minds. The officers of the ship made Tom some valuable presents ; and this proof of his courage and intrepidity raised him still higher in their esteem. But Tom said it was all nothing at all, he did no more than his duty, and the man who would not do that, and assist his fellow creature in distress, was not deserving the name of a Briton, and disgraced the character of a tar.

It cannot be doubted but that the activity of Tom had saved the vessel from sinking ; for in all probability had the leak remained open but a few hours longer, she would have gone to the bottom. The joy which the crew evinced on this providential escape from death, was natural, though perhaps carried too far, and its consequences had likely to have proved fatal to poor Tom. Their excess of gratitude to him for having preserved their lives, which was displayed in their plying him well with strong liquors, produced in Tom a very violent fever, and confined him several weeks a close prisoner to his hammock ; in the course of which he had many times been given over by the  
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the surgeon of the vessel. This circumstance occasioned a great melancholy throughout the ship, and every one lamented the consequence which was likely to ensue from their imprudent excess and extravagant mirth. But the disorder, when it arrived at a crisis, took a favourable turn, and notwithstanding the fears of the surgeon, and the apprehensions of the crew Tom's bark was again safely moored in the harbour of health, and he once more hailed the shores of old England; rich in the esteem of all who knew him, and rich in pocket.

The benevolence of Tom's heart would not let him see any in distress without relieving them; for he esteemed money of no other value but as it enabled him to purchase the necessities of life, and relieve the necessities of the poor and friendless. This proneness to charity very often made him the dupe of the artful and dishonest; for if an object of distress met his eye, he did not stay to consider whether it deserved relief, it was enough for him to know that it stood in need of assistance.—In truth, when he met an avowed enemy, (for even Tom had enemies) distressed and in poverty, he freely administered to his wants, and in the sufferings of the man, forgot his vices, and the injuries he had sustained.

Thus rich, and thus benevolent, Tom had many friends. While in the river Tom became acquainted with a Wapping dame, who retailed liquors to the sailors. Seeing that Tom was very flush of cash, she treated him with great civility; and some say she granted him favours which English tars are never against receiving. Tom was highly gratified by the partiality of this lady, who, by the bye, in scoring two for one, and taking presents from him, had drained him of all his cash; an event which as soon as she became informed of, had a wonderful effect on her behaviour towards the credulous Tom, to whom she would now scarce deign to speak; and refused to let him have any more liquor till he had paid a score of eighteen shillings that he had left unpaid. This Tom could not do, having given the last shilling he had to an old crippled tar, who was begging on Tower-hill. Now, and not till now, he perceived the baseness of the wretch whom he had been caressing, (and on whom he had squandered the chief part of his hard-earned wealth) and his own credulity. To complain or to expostulate was of no use; he left the house, and meeting with a captain of whom he had some knowledge, and who was then in search of hands for his vessel bound to America,

rica, Tom engaged with him for the voyage ; and drew a couple of guineas on advance, which the captain readily let him have on hearing that he was without money. He directly returned to the landlady, and discharged his score. She seeing that Tom had got a fresh supply of cash, returned her former civilities, but the lure failed ; she had unmasked her character, and Tom was proof against her arts. He took his change, and after reproaching her for her duplicity and ingratitude, repaired to his vessel, which a few days after weighed anchor, and directed her course to the shores of America, on which our hero will be found in the next chapter.

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LIFE AND ADVENTURES, &c.

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CHAP. II.

*Tom arrives at Charlestown; stays three months there; does not like the People; sails for Russia, and gets made boatswain on board a ship of the line; his seamanship offends the Admiral of the fleet, who threatens to break him; leaves the Russian service; returns to England; gets a ship for Jamaica, but is pressed out, and sent on board a tender; Humours of a tenders hold described.*

THE two guineas which Tom had received of the captain, enabled him to discharge the whole of his debts on shore, and he left old England with the satisfaction of being well thought on by every one who knew him. Even the Wapping dame, mercenary as she was, and

and infamously as she had treated him after having wasted his substance on her, could not but subscribe to the good character which every one was ready to give him.

The unsuspecting nature of Tom, and the unbounded generosity of his heart, frequently involved him in similar predicaments; and notwithstanding that experience was continually discovering to him the ingratitude of the world, he never profited by the lessons she taught him; for when his difficulties were removed by the accidental accession of wealth,—and he had no difficulties but what arose from the want of cash—he forgot every iniquity which the ill-treatment of mankind occasioned.

In this vessel Tom arrived safely at Charlestown, a port then belonging to the crown of Great Britain, but wrested from it in the unnatural contest between this country and America; and is now dependent to the united States. Tom resided at this place about three months; but,—to use his own phrase—not liking the *Tankrys*, he went from thence in a Russian vessel, and on his arrival at Petersburg meeting an old friend he obtained a warrant as boatswain on board a ship of the line

line ; in which capacity, the superiority of his skill, as a seaman, was very conspicuous ; and true it is, and pity "'tis true," exposed him to the anger of the admiral of the fleet.

Under the directions of Tom, the crew of the ship, on which he was aboard, was enabled to work the vessel sooner and easier than any other in the fleet ; at night she was the last that began to shorten sail, and yet the first that finished this operation. The expertness and good seamanship which distinguished Tom's ship above all the rest, excited the anger of the Admiral, who sent out his boat for the captain. The captain assigns, as a reason for the easy method and quickness of working his ship, that she is under the management of an ENGLISHMAN. Tom is now had on board the flag ship ; but, not the least daunted by the sternness of the commander, offers to shew to the rest of the boatswains of the fleet his method. The reader will allow, that for this generous offer Tom, at least, deserved to be thanked ; but, strange to tell, his friendly offer was treated with contempt, and himself, after three years hard service, threatened to be broke.

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This was a severe stroke to poor Tom, whose good seamanship, and the praise it generally received, formed the greatest pleasure of his life; and seemingly more than compensated for every hardship he underwent. Is the meritorious conduct of the sailor thus treated in the British navy? No, the British tar, who amidst the perilous storm, and in the heat of battle, discovers skill, courage and intrepidity, never fails to meet the thanks of his officers; and, though merit is often by the chicanery of little minds, and to serve party purposes, thrust aside to make room for ignorance and audacity, yet it is always esteemed, always admired.

On board Tom's vessel the greatest regularity was observed: and during the whole of the time that he held the office of boatswain, not a man was ever flogged, though this harsh treatment was frequently repeated in every other ship. The captain and officers treated him with exemplary kindness; and he was equally beloved by the whole crew. His situation was, perhaps, in every respect more easy than it had hitherto been; but still Tom was determined to quit the service of the Imperial state, and return to his native country.

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The contempt his friendly offers had received from the Admiral, and the punishment he had been threatened with, though he dared not resent, yet he could neither forget nor forgive; and he determined to return to port and solicit his discharge, which after much entreaty, and extreme reluctance on the part of the captain, he received, and then engaged with a London trader, with whom he came to England.

Soon after Tom's arrival in England, he got a birth in a vessel bound for Jamaica, but before she left the river, the unfortunate war broke out with America. This circumstance made the captain, whose ship was richly freighted, determine on taking the benefit of convoy, which the merchants had applied for to the admiralty. In the mean time press warrants were issued, and a sharp press on the river took place. Every vessel was searched, and among the rest that in which Tom was, who, with the greatest part of the crew, were lugged out, and conveyed on board the tender.

In consequence of the *London Waggon* (a small tender so called that carries the volunteers and impressed men from the Tower to the receiving ship at the Nore,) having failed

in the morning with the hands that had been regulated the preceding day, Tom was the first person who entered the hold, and of course was captain of this delightful place. Among a number of unfortunate beings whom the strong arm of power had deprived of their liberties, were a Scotchman, a taylor and a shoemaker, with a numerous party of runaway apprentices. No sooner was this groupe assembled in the hold, than Tom called on each man for a shilling (which is the usual fee paid on entering this place) to purchase liquor to make merry with, if it was possible for mirth to exist in a situation so forlorn ; and the better to expedite the payment of this customary fee, notwithstanding the etiquette of the place excused him from paying it, Tom, with his usual generosity, threw down his shilling.

The taylor was the first called on for his shilling ; and at the same time an order given to those on the deck to hand down three pots of porter, if it may be called by that name ; but small beer at a cellar in St. Giles's was far preferable to the adulterated beverage dealt out in this place. Here, as in a spunging house, those who serve the liquor, though they get a profit of eight-pence in the shilling, think their

their gains too small. This delicious stuff was poured through the grating into a tin can, which was none of the cleanest; notwithstanding which, and the badness of the liquor, it was very acceptable to these poor creatures, whose number by this time had increased to near forty; and the space assigned them was only forty feet long, twenty-four broad, and eighteen deep; with a grating about three feet square at the top for the admission of light and air.

The beer was handed down as soon as called for; the decent appearance of Mr. Snip, preventing any suspicion of his being unable to pay for it; yet when asked for the money, he declared that he had not a souce in the world. He had, it seems, spent the whole of his week's earnings in company with some brothers of the thimble; and being afraid to go home to his termagant wife on such an occasion, resolved to retrieve his fortune in the service of his country. The Spanish war would perhaps put a trifle in his way, if an unlucky ball did not take off his nob, and gold he observed would make peace at home for ever; and nothing but money would pacify his rib.

Some

Some of the company, when the taylor had finished his discourse, not crediting what he had said, were for taking off his upper garment to satisfy his garnish money, but Tom interposed in his behalf, and having obtained silence, submitted to them a measure which he thought would determine the question whether he really was without money. It would be a pity, he observed, to take from a fellow creature in distress any part of his cloathing, or to misuse him because he had the misfortune to be poor, the more so as the waggon would soon return, and when they were shifted on board her, they might have an overflow of cold as they now had of heat; he would therefore make a motion, which if it pleased them, they might confirm into a law.

This was no less than an oath to be taken by the person, who, on being asked for garnish money, declared himself unable to pay it; and as it was a fair presumption that those who entered voluntarily on board, were not much troubled with money, he thought the oath he had to propose would be highly proper and satisfactory. He then delivered the following protestation.

*"I A. B. do declare that I have neither money, watch, silver buckles, or any thing except the cloathing which is necessary for my immediate wear that will raise one shilling. So help me Bob."*

A clean side of the po po tub, is then to be kissed by the person who takes this oath; and who, if it is demanded, is to suffer himself to be searched. If this should not be requested, and it is afterwards discovered that he has sworn falsely, he is to undergo the following punishment, viz. *"To be lathered with the contents of the po po tub, and remain with his nose over it for one hour, and then shaved with a piece of iron hoop."* These propositions of Tom being agreed to *nem. con.* and many of the party, from the smart appearance of Mr. Snip, doubting the truth of what he had sworn, they demanded a search, which the knight of the thimble did not shrink from, but readily submitted himself to their examination. The result of their search was highly honourable to the son of cabbage, and he was favourably acquitted. But the beer still remained unpaid for, and neither the oath which the taylor had taken, nor his honourable acquittal from the suspicion of his fellow captives, could satisfy the impatient clamours of the man on deck; who incessantly called for the money for the three pots of beer.

Tom seeing that this would lead to a squabble, and interrupt the mirth of the place, said he would pay Snip's shot himself, and immediately handed up the cash, at the same time calling on bodkin for a chaunt, who struck off with that good old song, very applicable to the new life he was going to embrace——

*“ How little do the landmen know  
What we poor seamen feel,  
When waves do mount and winds do blow,  
But we have hearts of steel.*

*No danger can affright us,  
No enemy shall flout,  
We'll make the Monsieurs right us,  
So toss the can about.*

*Stick stout to orders, jolly mates,  
We'll plunder, burn, and sink;  
Then France have at your first rates,  
We Britons ne'er will shrink.*

*We'll rummage all we fancy,  
And bring them in by scores;  
There is Moll, Kate, Sue, and Nancy,  
Shall roll in loudores.*



*Whilst here off Deal we're lying,  
With our noble commodore,  
We'll spend our wages freely boys,  
And then to sea for more.*

*In peace we'll drink and sing boys,  
In war we'll never fly;  
Here's a health to George our King boys,  
And the royal family.*

and concluded with a toast, that his rib might be in heaven before his return.

The next person called on for garnish money was Crispin who without the least hesitation, and in a manner that left no room to doubt his sincerity, declared that a bad shilling, which his landlady had palmed on him in settling his Saturday night's score, and four-pence in copper was the whole of his stock: to this he added they were welcome and if he had had any more they should have it with pleasure. Indeed he declared that his extreme poverty was the cause of his going to sea. He had many difficulties to encounter with on shore, his debts were numerous, and beyond his power, by the hardest labour, to discharge, he therefore ventured in  
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in the fortune of war, and if so be he gained a prize, and had the good hap to share the plunder of a rich Spanish galleon, he would, as soon as he returned to England, pay all his debts and prove himself an honest man: if he was killed, he hoped his creditors would forgive him, and think a British seaman falling in the defence of his king and country deserved to be remembered with kindness.

This apology of Crispin was received by the whole company with great applause; and to do honor to his plainness and integrity, the titular Saint of his profession, well known by the name of Crispin, was drank with three huzzas.

Notwithstanding the mirth that reigned among these thoughtless beings, there were on board two young lads of a seeming melancholy turn of mind, and who had before attracted the notice of Tom. The loud huzzaing of the crew made no impression on these lads; a sullen sourness was exhibited in their countenances, and they looked with disdain on all around them. To these dull beings Tom addressed himself, and familiarly enquired the cause which brought them on board the tender. The youngest of

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the two answered, that having had some words with their master, who had struck them, and as they conceived, otherwise ill-used them, they had resolved to deprive him of the benefit of their labour; and to that end they ran away intending to enter themselves on board a man of war. Before however, they put the latter part of their resolution into practice, they went with some of their companions to a hop, which was held weekly in the neighbourhood of the Tower, to take leave of their acquaintance, and while they were revelling with their lasses, a party of the press-gang rushed into the room. In a moment all was hurry and confusion: the women screamed, some of the young fellows escaped out of the windows, others more spirited fought with the sailors, but many of them were overpowered and secured; among these were the two now on board, who not having any friends, nor in fact desiring any, to rescue them by seeing the officers, had been brought to the present place.

Tom here asked them many questions relative to their labour, food, lodging, and other treatment. These they said were very good; and on being questioned as to their behaviour to their master, they reluctantly confessed that  
their

their conduct had been very aggravating. Tom shook his head, and told them that they had "*leaped from the frying pan into the fire,*" and that a short time would convince them of their folly.

They said that no master on earth should strike them; and if he had not done so they had still been in the service of him they had now deserted.

Tom observed to them that they had confessed their conduct to have been very aggravating, and that they were originally the transgressors. You forgot, said he, to treat him as your superior, and by your misconduct brought on yourselves the punishment which you experienced. You should have held the old proverb in mind, that "*a good jack makes a good gill.*" Had you done this, my word for it you had not been beaten. Believe me, my youngsters, continued Tom, you will meet with much harder treatment in the place you are now going to, than in the one you have so foolishly run from. Your master for a great fault but sparingly corrected you, here you will be severely punished for no fault at all; and if you look angry or mutter, you will then have

a double allowance of the rattan. However, my lads, I wish you well, and I do not doubt but that you will shew the same spirit of resistance against the enemies of your country as you have done to your master.

Tom then turned to the other part of the crew, who were vociferating loudly for the Scotchman's garnish money. Sawney however shewed no disposition to comply with their request, and sat very composedly shrugging his shoulders and taking snuff. His insensibility and fullness, would perhaps soon have exposed him to the indignation of the crew, had not Tom, by his authority as captain of the place, suppressed their promptness to ill-treat the hardy Scot.

Tom readily perceived the Scotchman's ignorance of the customs of the place, and endeavoured to explain them to him, but all he could get from him was, "Hoot, hoot awa' man, I ken unco' weel what ye're seeking,—but the de'el rin ow'r me gin I ha' gotten ae single plack i' my pouch.

This declaration of the Scot, though strictly true, was disbelieved by the greatest part of the company, who insisted on his taking the oath,  
which

which the captain had proposed, and which had been administered to the taylor.

“Vary weel,” said Sawney, “vary weel, sirs, I’se tak’ yer aith, gin that’ll pleasure ye;—but bide ye there, for the first ane that crooks a thumb o’er me shall find it nae bairn’s play between us;—that’s the speerit of a Scotchman,—fae tak’ yer wulls o’t, as the cat did o’ the haggies, when she lickit the meat, and crap’ into the bag.”

This inclination of the Scotchman to resist a ceremony which others had submitted to, was understood by those present as wishing to evade the payment of the garnish money; and they all to a man declared their intention to search him. Sawney now repeated his resolution not to submit to this disgrace, and said, “that he was nae true Sco’ that wad na’ clap a shou’der again sic a deevilish combination.

Tom now perceived that the dispute between the Scotchman and the other impressed men, would lead to serious consequences, unless it was settled. He questioned Sawney very particularly relative to the means by which he had earned his living, and readily discovered from  
his

his answers, the probability of his being without money. Tom then in a set speech harangued the whole crew, pointing out the impossibility of the Scotchman's possessing any cash, and advising them to accept his oath, and avoid their privilege of searching him. The interest which Tom had gained over his fellow prisoners, was such as effected a perfect reconciliation between the contending parties, and the harmony of the company was again resumed.

The same demand of garnish money was made to every individual in the ship, and those who had the good fortune to be in the possession of any cash, readily complied; and those who had none were invited to drink of the beverage that was quaffed, and to join in the mirth of the crew.

These revels lasted till near two in the morning, when their liquor being quite exhausted, and their pockets entirely empty, they betook themselves to rest on the planks of the vessel, and for a few hours forgot their situation and their cares.

In the morning they were ordered on deck to undergo an examination, and such as were  
found



found fit for his Majesty's service were put on board the *London Waggon*, which had now returned for a fresh cargo of impressed hands, and those who were disapproved were discharged and sent on shore. As for Tom he was recognized by many of the sailors present, and declaring his wish to serve the king, and to fight in the defence of his country, was entered a volunteer, and admitted to the same privilege as are allowed to men of this description, while the others were put into the hold and conveyed to the receiving ship at the Nore.

A very short time after, Tom was appointed on board a ship of war, where his activity, good sailanship, and undaunted courage, recommended him to the notice of his officers, and the friendship and esteem of his fellow sailors. Indeed it was impossible that his good qualities could long remain unknown. His readiness to do service to any one who needed assistance, his skill in the avocation he followed, and many hundred other good qualifications, were sure to gain him notoriety.

His purse was always open to the necessities of a fellow creature in distress; and notwithstanding that in his daily voyage through life  
he

he had indubitable proofs of the world's ingratitude, yet the benevolence of his heart was not injured thereby, and the unkindness of others could never prevent the exercise of his own generous feelings, or make him indifferent to the sorrows and wants of the indigent and the poor.

We would have the reader believe that the character here sketched of a British seaman is not confined in its application to a single individual; no, thousands of our brave tars merit the same encomium which is here given to honest TOM TACKLE. Courage, humanity, generosity, and benevolence are the characteristics of an English sailor, and he is deservedly the admiration of the whole world.

Soon after Tom's appointment on board this ship of war, which was the *Prothce* of sixty-four guns, a remarkable fast sailer, that had been then lately taken from the French, an accident befell him which had nearly cost him his life, and very much disfigured his face; but the particulars of this accident are reserved for the next chapter, to which we refer the reader.

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OF TOM TACKLE, &c.

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CHAP. III.

*Describing an accident that befell poor Tom on board the Prothee, which had nearly cost him his life: the attention that was paid him by the surgeon of the ship, and the rest of the crew: his recovery from illness, and his relapse from a fall from the cross-trees into the main-top; by which he broke two of his ribs, and was confined several weeks to his hammock; with several other interesting particulars: his appointment on board the Duke man of war, in which he sails under Lord Howe to the relief of Gibraltar: to which is added a most interesting anecdote of himself on a similar occasion.*

A Sail having been discovered, while the Prothee was on a cruize, some of the  
D men

men were ordered into the hold to shift ballast, in order to expedite her sailing. Tom was one of the number, and, never averse to a joke, or idle, when any fun was going forward, began tossing a nine pound ball to his companions ; and not being the best cricketer in the world, after several rounds, Tom missed his catch : the ball struck him with great force on the face, and down he went. All hands immediately ran to his assistance : the ball had come against him with prodigious force, and to all appearance he was without any signs of life. They immediately carried him to the surgeon, who, after clearing his face of the blood that hung upon it, for he had bled very much, examined the wound, and to the grief of the the whole ship's crew, pronounced it desperate.

The surgeon, who was an admirer of Tom's good-nature and bravery, assured his messmates that nothing on his part should be wanting to save his life ; but he was very apprehensive that the wound he had received would cause his speedy death, unless more favorable symptoms should arise. He then bled him freely, and after dressing his face, had him conveyed to his hammock, where he laid two days in a state

state of insensibility, and without speaking; while those around him expected that every moment would be his last.

In this melancholy situation he had every attendance that could possibly alleviate his sufferings. The surgeon or his mate was almost constantly with him, and it was very fortunate that they paid him this attention; for the surgeon, thinking that a change for the better or worse must shortly take place, coming to the birth found the poor fellow, who had been left a few moments by himself, almost suffocated in his blood.

The blow he had received it seems had caused the gristle of his nose to be enflamed: and his head had swelled to such a prodigious size that it was impossible to distinguish the features of his face. A discharge in consequence of this swelling now took place, the hammock was overflowed, and it is conjectured that he had bled at least six quarts. The surgeon when the discharge had stopped, had him removed into a fresh hammock, and after again dressing his face, and administering to him some refreshing medicines, left him to his repose.

Tom slept soundly for several hours, and from this moment began to mend apace, to the no small joy of the whole crew, who, to a man, were strongly prepossessed in his favour. In a short time he was capable of doing duty, but the officers would not suffer him to exert himself too much, lest a relapse should take place, and they knew the value of his services too well to run any hazard of being deprived of their benefit.

A strange alteration in the features of Tom however took place, his nose was quite indented, and his face looked for all the world like one of the natives of Guinea. But though his *face* was altered, his *heart* still remained faithful to his *king*, his *mistress*, and his *friend*.

Some time after this accident, and while Tom, who belonged to the main-top was on board the same ship, it blew a strong gale, and the top-gallant-sail split. Tom, who was always on the look out, saw it, and thinking it no sin if he could save, from the shattered canvass, a pair of trowsers for himself and his comrades on the top, ascended the shrouds, and having his knife very handy, let down the pieces, which those below took care to stow in a safe place, being  
of



of the same opinion with Tom, that they had an equal right with the boatswain to share the spoils of the ship. The captain's clerk who was on the quarter deck seeing what was going forward, and entertaining different ideas to these poor fellows, hailed Tom, who seeing that he was detected, made the best haste he could from the yard. And indeed, poor fellow, he made too much haste, for slipping off the cross-trees, down he came into the top, almost as soon as the last piece of sail. Fortunately the piece which was intended for themselves, was laid at one corner of the armcheft, on which Tom fell sideways, and only broke two ribs; but his whole frame was so much shaken, that he was obliged to be let down by a tackle, and was not able to get out of his hammock for a month. *Mr. Officious*, who thought that these poor fellows who work the hardest, and are exposed to the most dangers, had no right to share in any plunder, but that such only was the exclusive property of the officers, took care to inform the captain of the transaction of which he had been a *prying* witness; on which a strict search was made after the lost canvass, but it deservedly proved fruitless; for though almost every one knew where it was lodged, except *Honesty* himself, yet no one would betray the secret.

Having failed in the proof of his accusation, *Mr. Busybody* was threatened by the captain with a dozen lashes if he ever falsely charged a seaman again. This behaviour of the captain, highly delighted the whole crew, who, after giving three cheers, swore they would never quit him while a single plank was on float.

In the course of this war Tom was shifted to the *Duke*, of ninety guns, which was one of the fleet of thirty-five sail, under the command of Lord, now Earl Howe, who was sent to the relief of Gibraltar, and on that occasion was exposed to the combined fleets of France and Spain, amounting to sixty-six sail of the line. The manner in which this gallant admiral executed this dangerous and hazardous commission evinces the superiority of the English in the knowledge of naval tactics, and was the wonder and admiration of the whole world. With a force scarcely half equal to the enemy, by his excellent method of working the fleet, he threw supplies into the garrison, after having only a partial action with the combined fleets, that did honor to his skill and bravery as a seaman, and added lustre to the british flag,

An honest Hibernian, who was on board the *Duke*, observed that the fleets were afraid of each

each other, having been in sight several days without coming to an engagement, not considering that it was the interest of the British admiral, both from the *importance* of the commission with which he was entrusted and the vast *inferiority* of the force under his command, to avoid a close action. There can be no doubt, from the known and well-tried bravery of his lordship, that had he been enabled to throw the supplies he had on board into the garrison, but that he would, on the first offer of the enemy, have engaged them; and Tom, who was, perhaps, nearly as a good a seaman as the admiral, well knew that, notwithstanding the masterly manœuvres which he practised to effect this important business, and to avoid any engagement, the fleets must shortly come into action, told Pat that if he was so *fond* of fighting, he should have it instead of a dinner: and so in fact it turned out; for the fleets soon after began a hot cannonade at each other, and the poor Hibernian, with thirteen others, in that ship, lost their lives in the course of the action.

In speaking of this memorable event, an anecdote, highly interesting, in which Tom Tackle appears to great advantage, and which in some degree is connected with the foregoing relation,

relation, occurs to our recollection. Prior to Lord Howe's relieving Gibraltar, the inhabitants of Liverpool had raised, by subscription, a corps of volunteers for the defence of that place, who were then in garrison and performing the duty for which they were intended.— About three months after they had left England those who had engaged these men in this dangerous and hazardous service, thought that salt provisions, without any vegetables, would ill agree with their constitutions, and therefore agreed to send a ship-load of potatoes.

This laudable intention, which reflected the highest honor on the inventors, had a thousand obstacles to encounter before it could be finally accomplished.

It is true vessels to convey this liberal and valuable present, were in great plenty, but the first difficulty, and that a very material one, that presented itself, was the attaining hands to navigate her, and that would venture in such a hazardous undertaking. The first step towards the accomplishment of this philanthropic resolution, was the purchasing a vessel for the voyage, and the *Hector* privateer, of London, a fine dismantled vessel then lying in the harbour for sale,

sale, was fixed on. This ship had been very unsuccessful in her cruizes, and in consequence had been paid off. She mounted, when in service, twenty-two long nine-pounders, and ten brass swivels, carrying a ball of four pounds each, was a prime sailer, of good tonnage, and every way fitted for the purpose.. An experienced master was appointed to command her, and advertisements of every description, offering a liberal bounty, were published, in order to obtain hands to navigate the ship; but such was the danger of the undertaking, and so few the seamen unemployed, that only six entered themselves for the voyage.

At this time press warrants were out, and great exertions were used by the officers of the navy to obtain hands for the king's service; the sailors to avoid being pressed, secreted themselves in every nook and corner they could find favourable to their purpose; and many of these were assembled at a low beer-house on the skirts of the town, among whom was Tom. The intencion of the inhabitants on the potatoe business made part of their conversation; and Tom, who was always a friend to laudable and friendly designs, or any thing calculated to assist his fellow-creatures, observed to his messmates,  
that

that it would be a sore misfortune so humane an undertaking should fail of success, and declared that if the rest present were willing, to go (about fourteen in number,) he would offer himself the next morning to the captain. The landlady hearing this proposition of Tom, offered them half a dozen crown bowls of punch if they would enter, and her blessing and good wishes for their success into the bargain. One of the company said that so noble an offer from a woman could not be refused; and another desired her to bring in a bowl of liquor, and if they liked it they would settle the matter. After a few glasses of punch, and a little conversation, they unanimously agreed to enter themselves on this expedition, and a message to that effect was sent to the captain, with an invitation to join them in their merry-making. This pleasing intelligence soon brought the captain among them; each man received his bounty; the night was spent in drinking and carousing, and the next day the whole fourteen went on board the vessel agreeable to their contract.

The captain had now twenty able seamen on board, besides a lame cook, and wanted but ten more to make up his complement. The inhabitants elated with the success that had hitherto



to attended their humane intentions, now redoubled their search for men, but five was all they could muster, and these five had but seven legs to stand on; the captain on this account refused them as disqualified for the service. Tom, who was anxious to weigh anchor, told him he ought not to refuse these men; by reason that as the vessel was single-masted, the work would be chiefly on the deck, and as those who had had the misfortune to lose a leg were in other respects strong lusty men, he doubted not but they were capable of deck duty, and the other hands were more than sufficient to go aloft. The greatest exertion necessary, he observed, would be to hoist the mainfail, and he thought, that by the help of a winch, there would be strength enough on board to manage that.

This expostulation had the desired effect; the men were accepted; and as there was no prospect of getting any additional hands, every preparation was made for sailing. This ship still retained the appearance of a vessel of force, for her ordnance had been re-placed with wooden guns for that purpose. The morning on which they weighed anchor, a vast concourse of people crowded the shore to behold  
their

their departure; and amidst the prayers and blessings of the whole town they proceeded on their voyage; in which nothing material happened till they came in sight of Gibraltar, the passage to which they found guarded by a Spanish ship of the line, a frigate of forty, and a zebec mounting twenty-four guns.

The appearance of so formidable a force greatly disconcerted the captain, and threw a damp upon the whole crew. Any attempt to reach the garrison while such a force remained before it, appeared to the captain extremely rash, as such an attempt, he observed, would expose them to the fire of vessels that must inevitably send them down; and he therefore thought it most adviseable to shape their course back, or to wait the chance of meeting a British ship of force for protection. This proposition Tom strongly opposed. He said the garrison would be greatly benefited if they could get in, and not to attempt it would be worse than not coming at all; it would reflect upon their courage; it would impeach their humanity; in short, it would be betraying the trust that had been reposed in them; and he declared that if they did not attempt to throw the provision into the garrison, he could never think

think of shewing his face in England any more.

The whole crew, to a man, favoured the opinion of Tom; and the captain ceased to oppose it. Tom who had been used to steer a Gravesend boat in the river Thames, a circumstance which qualified him for his present office, by the consent of the captain took the helm, and every hand on board observed the strictest steadiness and attention to duty. Tom kept a steady course, and the first that gave him chase was the zebec, on whom he practiced a most successful trick, to the satisfaction of the captain and the crew, and by a skilful manœuvre left her so much to leeward, that no danger was to be apprehended from her exertions. The frigate was now to be dreaded, and, seeming to understand the mistake that had been committed by the zebec in going to leeward, kept close to the wind, firing at every opportunity a shot at the cutter, in hopes of disabling her. Tom still kept a close look out for an opportunity to slip this vessel, which soon offered; for by some accident or other, the Spaniard missed stays and was no longer able to give any annoyance to Tom, who, making all the sail he could, soon carried his vessel out of the enemy's reach.

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Those in the garrison beheld the skillful manœuvres and good fortune of the unknown English pilot with great satisfaction, and they all eagerly crowded on the rock to witness the issue of this doubtful contest. The greatest danger now remaining, and only obstacle to the success of their voyage, lay in the ship of the line, which was a third rate vessel mounting seventy-four guns, a single shot from which, if should strike their hull, would send them, potatoes and all, to the bottom.

Notwithstanding the success they had met with, they were still exposed to the most imminent danger. The seventy gun ship was bearing down upon them under a press of sail, and the greatest consternation prevailed among the crew of the Hector. To get rid of this last and greatest enemy was the test. Tom said that nothing but a good breeze could ensure their safety; in which case he had nothing to fear from their lower tier, and besides he could *bug* the shore more than the *Don* by reason of the small draught of water they drew. In a short time the wishes of Tom were effected; it blew a hard gale; indeed stronger than he wished, all on deck were wet to the skin, by the plunging and spray of the sea, and the ship, at times, was in great danger of foundering

pondering : for the desperate state of their situation, would not permit them to shorten sail ; which had they done, the upper deck guns of the enemy's vessel might have been brought to bear ; and a few shot would have done their business. Under these circumstances Tom did all that man could do ; he kept a steady helm ; and laid her gun-wale to : during all which time the enemy fired many shot at him, several of which went through the mainsail, but no other damage was done to the vessel. " Keep the gale up ten minutes longer," said Tom, " and we are as safe as brandy." The wind still continued to blow hard, and as Tom had predicted, they passed to windward of the Spaniard in a direct line for the garrison : the disappointed Don at this moment, as a parting salute, directed a most tremendous volley of shot from the quarter and upper deck guns ; but with as little success as attended her former firing.

Tom now seeing that all was safe, congratulated the captain, and the rest of the crew on the success of their voyage ; and hoped they would all join in prayer, and return God thanks for so lucky an adventure.

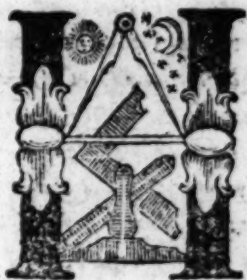
Being now within hail of the fort, they received from the anxious inhabitants three of the bravest cheers that was ever given; which those on board immediately returned. The captain on going on shore was kindly received by the governor and officers of the garrison, and was complimented by these for his courage in attempting, and the skill he displayed, to avoid so formidable an enemy. But he generously disclaimed all honour and credit on the occasion, and declared that the undertaking itself was planned by the courage, and executed alone by the skill of one man: a plain, honest, upright **BRITISH SEAMAN**, whose abilities, spirit, and humanity, reflected the highest eulogy on human nature.

Such a character as this excited the curiosity of the governor to have him on shore: and Tom received from the *brave and meritorious* ELLIOT, the *gallant cock of the rock*, his own and the garrison's thanks, together with some valuable presents, and an offer of preferment in the garrison. This last however, Tom refused, as he intended returning to England with the vessel; declaring he was fully satisfied in the consciousness of having done his duty, and of having been the means of affording relief to his fellow-countrymen,



countrymen, whom he thought with the assistance of the captain and shipmates, he should be able to supply with another cargo of potatoes, but added, that he should be more happy on his return to hear that the *horrors* of war had subsided into the *calm* of peace.

With this interesting anecdote of honest Tom Tackle we shall close the present chapter : and sincerely wishing that the philanthropy which warmed his breast was more general through the world, and all mankind were engaged in the laudable employment of ameliorating, rather than increasing the afflictions of their fellow-creatures.



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## LIFE AND ADVENTURES, &c.

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### CHAP. IV.

*Tom Tackle returns again to England, and enters a volunteer in a ship of war. While on board this vessel he makes a successful cruise; and on his return releases a brother sailor from prison. After having spent almost the whole of his prize-money, he goes to sea again; and is nearly lost in a gale of wind, the vessel from being over-laden having opened her timbers; the ship with her crew and cargo most providentially and whimsically saved by Tom's shirt, that he had hung to a tow-line on the side of the ship to cleanse, getting into the leak. Comes back to England very poor; finds Jack Hawser, whom he had released from prison, in good circumstances; asks his assistance, but is refused.*

**W**HEN Tom returned to England he found that government were still bent on continuing the war, and the humane  
with

with which he had breathed for the return of peace, not likely to be speedily realized.

Naturally of a very active disposition, and sincerely attached to the naval service, he made but a short stay on shore. A very fine vessel had been fitted out, by some merchants of London, and was now ready to sail. On board this vessel Tom entered a volunteer, and by his usual attention to his duty, and the exertion of his superior skill and judgment, soon recommended himself to the notice, and even the esteem of the whole crew.

They had not been out of port but a very few days before they fell in with, and after a smart action, captured a rich Spanish galleon, having on board 100,000 dollars, with which they arrived safe; and much to the honour of the owners of the ship, the whole of the prize-money was immediately distributed among the officers, the sailors, and themselves; each one receiving a share proportionate to the rank and office he held on board.

This booty, which was very considerable, gave Tom an opportunity of again exercising those acts of charity and benevolence which  
are

are the greatest ornaments of a christian, and from which Tom's character derived the greatest lustre, and himself the greatest felicity. It is true that he often dispensed his bounty in an indiscriminate manner, and the objects of it were frequently undeserving: still, however his intentions were good, and the errors of the head, were more than compensated by the goodness of the heart.

Thus richly freighted with the spoils of war, Tom searched out every sailor with whom he had any acquaintance, whether friend or foe, and made them equally partakers of his good fortune. Even the friendly and courteous dame of Wapping memory, was not forgotten. The uncivil and ungrateful treatment which he had received from this woman was no longer held in remembrance, and the anger and resentment which it once occasioned in his breast, had long been immersed in the gulph of oblivion. "*Forget and forgive,*" was honest Tom Tackle's motto: and every action of his life evinced his title to it. How seldom do the actions of the great correspond with the pompous devices that emblazon the arms of their family! These assume virtues, and boast of honours which they are conscious they never possessed: while  
Tom

Tom practised every virtue, and every honour that could ennoble human nature, without knowing that he had either.

In these moments of prosperity Tom heard that Jack Hawser, a shipmate in one of his early voyages to India, was fastened for debt in one of the gaols of the metropolis, and that his wife with four children, from being deprived of her husband's labour, were nearly in a state of starving. Any thing in the shape of want, and that bore the features of distress, was sure to arrest the attention, and obtain assistance of Tom; but when the person of one whom he esteemed his friend, one with whom he had been in the habits of intimacy, who had been the companion of his early days, who had braved the dangerous perils of the sea, and endured the hardships attending on his avocation, when such a one suffered the stroke of misfortune, and he possessed the means of relief, the swiftest application of it appeared tedious, and every moment between the suggestion and the accomplishment teemed with anguish.

Having made himself acquainted with the amount of the debt, which, with the costs attending the arrest, was somewhat short of  
twenty

twenty pounds, and desiring the landlord to get from the butcher's one of the finest legs of mutton he had, and suitable vegetables, for which he gave him money, and to have it ready against an hour he appointed, he set out for the house of the creditor of his friend, to whom he paid what money he demanded, receiving Jack's discharge, with which he hastened to the prison and carried the surprized debtor to his home.

The scene which now took place was such that no words can describe: conception may trace its faintest features, but cannot, to the warmest imagination, or the most philanthropic bosom, convey the agonizing pleasure which the restoration of a husband to the despairing arms of a disconsolate wife, and a parent to the guileless prattle of love-increasing infants, gave to those who feasted on the luxurious banquet.

To this, succeeded the entrance of the leg of mutton Tom had directed the landlord to purchase; and the family of his friend, shared with him the welcome feast: for it was long since the poor woman and her children had tasted meat. Jack and his wife were all gratitude to their benefactor, and solemnly vowed never to forget the obligation they owed to his friendship.

Tom



Tom would readily have dispensed with these flattering assurances, for that which he had done was the effect of an honest feeling heart, and he found in his own bosom a reward superior to the most lavish encomiums that language could utter.

For several months this honest fellow went on in relieving, by the distribution of his hard-earned wealth, the necessitous and indigent, and very often supporting by an improvident benevolence, the idle and dishonest vagrant. At length his purse became nearly exhausted; and in proportion as he ceased to give, the respect of those who had shared his bounty evidently decreased. Then, and not till then, he beheld the folly of his conduct; but it was too late to repair it, and he determined, before necessity urged him to ask a return of those favours he had so repeatedly shewn to others, to leave England, and thereby save himself from the mortification of a refusal.

In a few days he entered in a merchant's ship bound for Jamaica, in which he again took his departure from his native country, with a full resolution to profit by the useful lessons which experience had taught him, and swearing, that  
should

should he again take fortune in tow, to be in future more circumspect in his conduct, and more cautious in the selection of his friends.

Tom's passage to Jamaica was very short, and nothing material happened worthy of relation; but in their way back, owing to the obstinacy of the captain in taking on board too large a cargo, the vessel had nearly foundered. This circumstance was foreseen by Tom at the moment of lading, who in vain remonstrated with the captain on the impropriety of receiving so large a freight. He was called a fool, and desired to obey command; the captain swore that he would stow tier upon tier till there was not room to put a hand between the hogsheds and the deck. To effect this rash determination, recourse was had to that grand machine called a *jack*, whose power, if strength be given to the purchase, is unbounded. All hands were called to assist in working this instrument, and the captain was well pleased at having thus far succeeded in his improvident design, laughed at Tom for his simplicity, and ridiculed the bad opinion he had of the vessel's strength, which he observed was *London-river built*, and whose materials were composed of *good old seasoned English oak*.

Tom

Tom said that he had no doubt of her goodness, nor of the ship-builders who erected her, but let her be ever so well built, and let her materials be ever so good, if a larger freight is put on board her than she can fairly carry, the builders cannot be answerable for any accident that may befall her in her voyage. For his part he said, he was sure that many ships equally as strong, and as well built, had gone down, in consequence of their being over-laden: and that if they performed their voyage without accident it would be miraculous: for it was very plain to any one that the vessel was already some inches wider than before the last tier was shipped.

The captain answered these observations of Tom, by saying that the voyage would put to the proof what he had said. He had no doubt himself of the ship's ability; but they had scarcely left the harbour before he wished he had taken Tom's advice, as the vessel seemed to labour more than she had done in any other voyage.

When they had got about one third of the run home, it blew a fresh gale; the top-gallant masts were struck, and top-sails reefed to give as much ease as possible to the vessel; for the

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captain,

captain, though rather of an avaricious temper in his private concerns, was a very good seaman. The gale increased; the top-sails were handed, and their masts struck; nothing more could be done, and she was left to scud under the fore-sail, which soon after split. This was followed by the heaviest gale that the oldest seaman on board ever experienced; which lasted four and twenty hours: during which time the ship was ungovernable, for none could keep the deck but Tom, who was at the wheel, and did every thing in his power that the helm would effect.

Fortunately the storm abated; and the first thing was to try the well, when they found that she had sprung a leak, and the water made very fast. The pumps were set to work, but though they worked night and day, the water did not get an inch lower; and all attempts to lighten the vessel were totally impracticable, as nothing less than the strength of a crane could ever get out a single hog-head: and the only consolation they had in this dreadful situation was to find that the leak did not gain on them.

Notwithstanding that the exertions of the crew were able to keep the leak under, yet it was

was more than probable, not having at this time made more than half the passage, that she would go down : and which perhaps would have been the case, had not a circumstance, at once the most whimsical and providential that ever occurred, prevented this melancholy catastrophe. Tom had washed one of his shirts, (his benevolence to mankind had left him but two) and thrown it overboard to refreshen, making it fast to a tow-line ; and going about an hour afterwards to take it in, to his great surprize found nothing but the line to which it had been made fast. His messmates called him a fool for doing it, and passed many rough jokes on him for not knowing how to tie a knot. Tom took it all in good part, and said he hoped that the voyage would be soon over that he might get fresh rigged. All of a sudden the men at the pumps called out the well was dry, a very pleasing sound to the whole crew, who began to search for the cause. The LIMBER-ROPE\* were used, but these effected no discovery of the means by which the ship was lightened of water. Tom was asked what he thought of

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\* Lines passed through the limber timbers on each side the keelson, to keep the holes clear that the bilge-water or leakings may pass free to the well.

the matter, whose answer was—"That he had lost a shirt by the bargain," and being desired to explain himself, answered—"I'll be d—d if my shirt is not sucked into the leak, and that is the reason of the well being dry! But, I'll make a line fast round me, and go under her bottom and see."

The captain however would by no means permit him. He said that he did not doubt his abilities to discover the cause, they having before been tried on a similar occasion; but should he bring up his shirt, the water would again return, and the ship go to the bottom. He told Tom that he would accommodate him with a couple of shirts for the one he had lost, for he was opinion with Tom that the shirt had got into the leak; and he promised, that should the ship make port in safety, he would in future be guided by his advice in freighting his vessel, declaring that he was the most intelligent and best seaman he had ever met with.

The ship reached the river in safety, and when she was unladen, Tom's conjecture in respect to his shirt, was found true; it was taken out of the leak,

Owing



Owing to some embarrassment in the house to which the ship belonged, a considerable delay took place in the payment of the mens wages: a circumstance which involved poor Tom in the greatest distress, who was literally without money. In this dilemma he remembered his friend Jack Hawser, whom he found from enquiry was much risen in the world. Having made himself acquainted with the place of his residence, he paid him a visit, and not doubting his friendship, told him a true and artless tale, and solicited a small pecuniary assistance.

Jack, with great confusion in his countenance, and in a manner that gave the lye to his assertions, declared his readiness to serve him, but as to money, he had lately met with so many losses in trade, (for he was now a coal merchant) and other things, that he was really unable to comply with his request.

Tom, notwithstanding that his generosity and benevolence out run his judgment, was possessed of great penetration, and plainly saw in the paltry excuse of this wretch, the ingratitude of his heart. Without replying to his ungenerous refusal, and with a look of the most inefable contempt, he retired from the presence

of this monster, out of humour with himself, deploring his past folly, and execrating the ingratitude of mankind.

INGRATITUDE ! the greatest, the worst, and foulest crime that human nature can commit, was the only return this unsuspecting fellow received for the service he had done a fellow creature ! The world, my kind readers, is full of these monsters : when ye meet them, shun them as pests of society, the blasts of happiness the destroyers of peace ! In your voyage thro' life, if ye obey not the injunction of Scripture, which teaches you to do *good for evil*, lay not to your souls the *greater guilt* of doing *evil for good*.

This ungrateful behaviour of a man who was indebted to him for the plenty he now enjoyed, again drove him to sea, and he made another voyage to the West Indies.

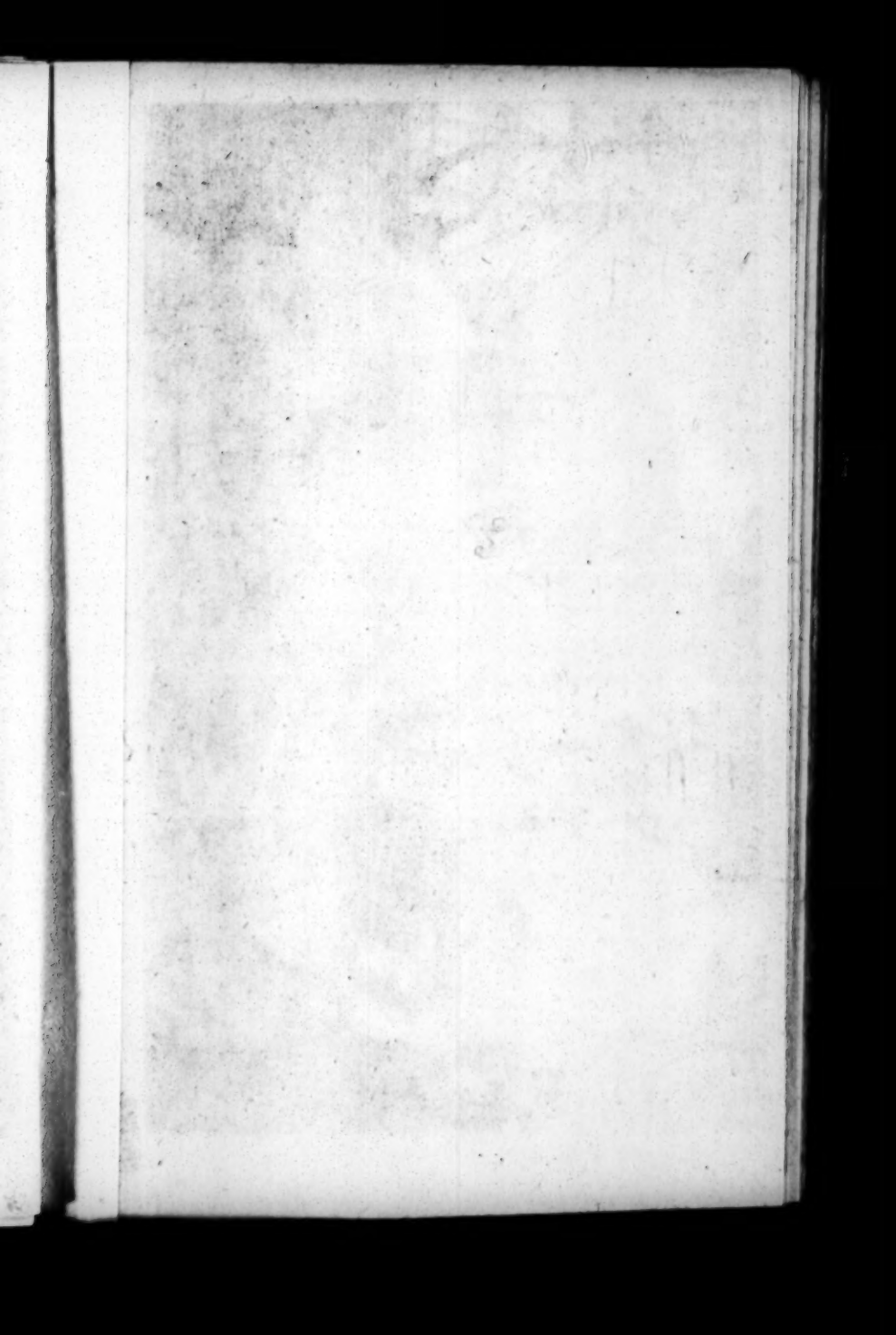
At Port Royal in Jamaica, while a fleet of English men of war were lying there, on board which was Tom Tackle, a shark had eluded every attempt that was made to take him, always taking the bait from the hook without being hurt. This circumstance was superstitiously

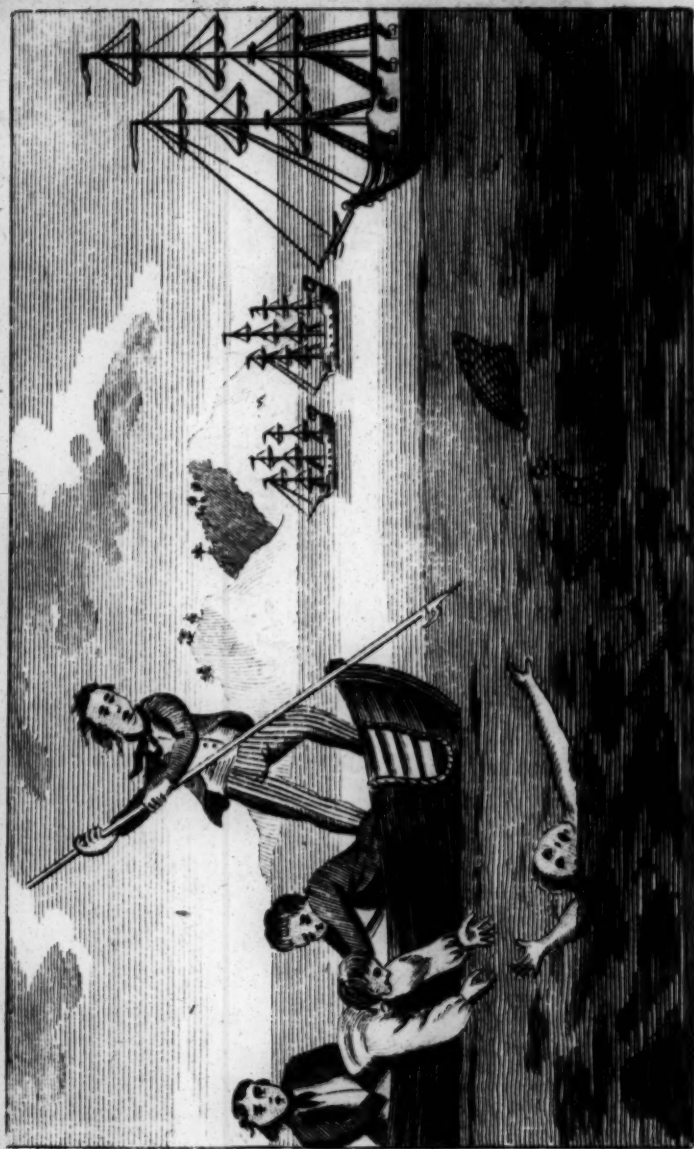
ously considered by the sailors, and the people on shore, as a lucky omen, predicting the future success of the town; and they unanimously agreed that no further attempts should be made against the life of JACK,—for such was the name they had given to this fish,—but that, whenever he was seen, a piece of pork or beef should be thrown overboard to him; which was regularly observed, and he became so exceedingly docile on that account, that he would go from ship to ship, and, as it were, solicit the allowance that had been voted him. The admiral who commanded on that station, readily confirmed the allowance of Jack, as while he lived he knew that none of the ships' crews dare swim on shore: and consequently a more regular discipline was observed in the fleet, and instances of desertion became less frequent.

This daily allowance of pork or beef in weight not less than 4 lb. was entered on the ships' book, and while the fleet lay there was punctually given. This continued for some time, and all who visited Port Royal were much pleased at Jack's taking his food so kindly. But the good fortune of this poor animal, and the pleasure which the crews of the ships, and the inhabitants of the place received from this circumstance

cumstance met with an abrupt termination. It so happened that the boatswain's mate of one of the frigates was enamoured of a buxsome landlady on shore, and, as he was an excellent swimmer, nothing but the fear of the shark prevented him from visiting her in an evening. This obstacle to his happiness he was determined to remove, and for that purpose loaded a musquet with a double charge of ball, and at the moment when Jack turned on his belly to take his food, for in no other way can these fish eat, their mouth being so much under the throat, let fly at him, and the next day he was seen floating on the surface. This act of cruelty however did not place him nearer his expected happiness, and he had no other satisfaction than that of having deprived the poor fish of life, as the ship was at that moment ordered on a cruize, and in an engagement some few days after, the butcher of Jack received a mortal wound that almost immediately terminated his existence.

Among other reports that were circulated in the fleet and on shore, was that of this being the very shark that bit off the leg of the gentleman (when a boy) who now (1797) fills the chair of the city of London.—See an excellent







lent engraving, by BOYDELL, with the following description——“*A youth bathing in the river of the Havannab, was twice seized by a shark, from which (though with the loss of the flesh and foot torn from the right leg) he disentangled himself, and was, by the assistance of a boat's crew, saved from the jaws of the voracious animal, for in the moment it was attempting to seize its prey (a third time) a sailor with a boat-hook, drove it from its pursuit.*”

In one of the ports up the streights, some masters of vessels meeting together on business, had sacrificed a little too much to the rosy god of wine, and were boasting of their hands, as being expert seamen, and singularly clever fellows. One of these, more elevated than the rest, offered his comrades a considerable wager that three of his crew should reach the top of the pillar\* then in view, drink each a quart of wine, and get down in safety. This wager was accepted, but in the morning when sleep had brought the proposer to the calm exercise of his reason, he condemned it as totally impracticable, in which belief he was joined by most of his crew.

Tom

\* Something like the monument, but not quite so high.

Tom, who happened to be one of these, was observed to be very thoughtful, and was asked by the mate what had made him so very serious. He answered that he thought they gave it up too easily, and without considering any method by which it might be done. The captain asked him if he thought it possible. Tom said that he would not give it up without a trial, and that he believed he could strike on a way to do it. The captain desired him to explain; at the same time telling him that if it could be effected he would give up the whole of the wager to the ship's crew.

Tom then began to make a large paper kite, which by flying over the pillar, he was enabled to lodge a line on the top, then drawing by degrees, and with great ingenuity, a thick cord over it, and making the ends fast to the ground with two of his shipmates he ascended the pillar, to the no small satisfaction of the captain, and astonishment of the natives, who in general looked upon it as impossible to be done by British sailors.

To this observation Tom replied that British sailors were equal to any thing that skill and courage could effect: for he felt himself very  
much

much hurt at the exclamation of the natives, which however was not meant as a reflection on the merits or abilities of English tars. That such a thing could be accomplished by a set of men of any nation, was what gave them surprise, for they well knew it had never before been attempted, even in contemplation, and that had any such a design been hinted it would have been considered, as it was indeed now, either the idea of mad-men or drunkards.

From this circumstance we may perceive that the most formidable difficulty may be overcome by perseverance. It is ever thus in the affairs of human life. When misfortunes arrive to bar our approach to happiness, or losses occur to reduce our worldly estate, and involve us in embarrassments, we should not relax our exertions, but rather continue them with redoubled ardour, as the surest means of rising superior to the chicanery and artifice of the world; for in proportion as we grow supine and negligent our distresses will encrease. If we never attempt to surmount a difficulty, that difficulty will still remain, and though it may not in itself accumulate, yet the want of energy on our parts will make the task of removing it more labori-

ous. Many a man, from want of exertion, is devoted to poverty and want, who might have arisen to affluence from the exertion of fortitude and perseverance.



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## OF TOM TACKLE, &c.

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### CHAP. V.

In consequence of the return of peace, and the paying off the King's ships, Tom is thrown out of employ; but after a long time is engaged by a Coaster. In a voyage from Hull to London, the ship after out-riding a violent gale of wind meets with a large quantity of masts, &c. the wreck of some vessel that had foundered at sea; the captain proposes to the men to take them up, Tom objects, but the whole crew being for the captain he gives up his objections. At night a very thick fog came on and not being able to distinguish the lighthouse they run on shore, and are in danger of being lost, but are providentially saved by the intrepidity and humanity of a fisherman. Tom now returns to London, and after many hardships gets a berth on board a Dublin trader: sails to Dublin, his description of that place: returns to London, the master of the vessel dies, and he is again adrift; and renews his acquaintance with the Wapping landlady.

**I**N the course of the American war Tom had many narrow escapes for his life, and was engaged in a variety of actions, in all of which

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he acquitted himself much to the satisfaction of under whom he served. At length PEACE, which the whole nation, as well as honest Tackle, so ardently wished for, was restored to the contending parties, and COMMERCE, which had suffered severely from the war, again flourished. PLENTY followed the footsteps of Peace, and the indigent and the poor partook of the bounty which these kindred powers distributed to the world.

In consequence of the war being ended many seamen that had been discharged from the king's ships were quite adrift; among these was poor Tom, who used every endeavour to obtain a birth, but without success. At the time he was paid off he had a considerable sum of money to receive, but his improvident charity soon eased him of this supply, and he was literally in a state of starving, when he was fortunately introduced to the notice of the master of a home trader, with whom he obtained a conditional appointment. It should be observed to the reader that, in consequence of such a number of hands being discharged from the king's service, the merchants were enabled to pick their men, and none but young lusty fellows, prime sailors, could



could find employment; and Tom, though perhaps the first seaman in the world, was often rejected because of his age, for he was at this time far advanced in years. At length an elderly gentleman, master of a brig employed in the coasting trade from Hull to London, observing the traits of honesty in the face of Tom, questioned him as to his knowledge of maritime affairs. Tom said that he had used the seas from a boy, and hoped that he had not disgraced the name of a tar, either in its professional department, or the estimation in which the world held it for integrity and generosity; and that, though a little in years, he was still able to do duty. He also added that if he suspected his abilities he would go a voyage with him, and leave to his generosity the reward of his services.

To this proposition the master agreed, and Tom engaged himself on these conditional terms. The reader will naturally suppose that the merits and abilities of a man so often exemplified as those of Tom could not long remain in obscurity. And indeed the master soon discovered their value, and it is but just to say that he had generosity to reward as well as understanding to perceive, them. So much

satisfied was he with his new band that, a very short time after he had been on board, he appointed him his mate, and committed the charge of his vessel to his care and management whenever he was himself absent.

Tom had now been coasting three years in this vessel, when in a voyage from Hull, freighted with ale and potatoes, after a very violent gale of wind, a great number of masts, yards, sails, &c. were seen floating, which the master said they might as well pick up as leave them to any one else. This proposal of the master the whole of the crew, except Tom, readily closed with. Wrecking was a species of traffic which he very much disliked, and he could never be prevailed to snatch a benefit from the misfortunes of mankind. The crew however persisted, observing that they could get on board what would fetch them forty or fifty pounds, which they thought would be no bad thing among six of them.

This prevailing sentiment on board stifled the dissent of Tom, who, for the sake of keeping on good terms with his messmates, and not from the conviction that his objections, as the master had termed them, were either trifling

trifling or superstitious, assisted in securing the floating wreck ; of which they got as much as could be well stowed in their small vessel, already deeply laden. Elated with the prize they had obtained, and anticipating with great satisfaction the advantage they should reap from the circumstance, the voyage was quite forgotten, and night overtook them before their recollection returned.

It blew a fresh breeze, which increased till it became a violent gale ; the crew now began to wish they had taken Tom's advice, and had employed the time, which they wasted in securing the remains of the unfortunate wreck, in prosecuting their voyage. It still continuing to blow hard, and the darkness to increase, Tom thought it would be most adviseable to bring the vessel up, as being near the shore a mistake might be made which it would not be easy to correct ; but the master desired him to be under no apprehension of danger ; he had coasted these seas for thirty years and was well acquainted with every part, the light they saw before them was from a lighthouse, and not more than a league a head, which they could easily reach, and they would then be safe till morning.

Tom notwithstanding the boasted confidence of the captain, and his assurances of safety, strongly suspected they were in imminent danger. The darkness was very great, a thick mist surrounded them, and the light which they had before seen suddenly disappeared; the greatest confusion reigned throughout the ship, and the most serious consequences were apprehended by the crew. Tom desired that the boy might heave the lead in order to discover the depth of water they were in, but before this could be done the ship struck on a sand bank, and to add to their misfortune the tide was making down, a circumstance which prevented the possibility of getting her off.

In this deplorable situation the master and those of the crew who suggested the idea of securing the remains of the wreck began to feel remorse of conscience; and the former, who in fact made the proposition, considered himself as the occasion of the misfortune that had befallen them, and sincerely prayed his men to pardon him for having brought them into this dilemma. That all on board were devoted to destruction each one believed, as they doubted not but that on the return of the tide, which would be some hours before daylight,

day-light, the vessel would go to pieces. It is impossible for language to describe the agitation and horror of these poor men's minds, or the perilous situation in which their imprudence had placed them. It was about midnight when the tide began to return; the sea ran mountains high, and by lifting up the vessel beat in her bottom; she filled very fast, and before the tide was at the full, the sea had covered more than half her masts, so that the crew were obliged to fly to the tops for immediate safety. In this situation the return of day found them, and the only chance left for their lives was the possibility of their being discovered by some ship or other that might be passing. Nearly however the whole day was passed and no ship appeared. Anxiously did they wish for some of the ale that was in the ship's hold, for their strength was almost exhausted with hunger and fatigue, and the captain's son, a boy about twelve years of age, absolutely died in the course of the day for the want of refreshment. Their wishes however were vain, for it was totally impossible for them to get at the hold, which was many feet under water. Night was again approaching without any prospect of their being released by human aid from their dreadful situation, and

and they now looked on their deaths as inevitable. Providence however had not deserted them; for in the midst of their despair Tom who had long been silent told his comrades that he saw a sail to windward. The eyes of the whole crew were eagerly bent to this point, and they all perceived something moving on the water, but the distance was too great to discern what it was, though as it increased in bulk they trusted it was drawing nearer them. Anxiously they watched its approach, and when they discovered that it was a vessel, the master desired the crew to join him in prayer that those on board might discover them.

Tom said that he had no objection to ask assistance of God, being well convinced that it was through him only that human aid could rescue them from their present danger, but he thought that in the present case it would be most adviseable for them to make every exertion in their power to let the people of the ship know, if they approached, that there were lives to be saved. To this they agreed, and pulling off their jackets, they waved them to and fro, making at the same time as much noise as they could in their weak state. This had



had the desired effect, and they soon saw the vessel, which they could distinguish was a fishing smack, making very fast towards them; the master of which seeing those on the top of the foundered ship, brought too, and sent out the boat to bring them on board; which after some little difficulty was happily effected; and just at the close of day they were landed in perfect safety at Winterton.

At this moment the man was going to put up the light at the light-house, which caused the master of the wreck to enquire what light it was which they saw last night, that so soon disappeared. He was answered that the person who had the care of the light-house had drank a little too freely, and forgot to trim his lamp, which was not discovered till the next morning. "Good God!" exclaimed the poor man, "to this neglect is owing the misfortune that has befallen us."

Here I cannot help making a few observations on the neglect of duty. He who is intrusted with the execution of an office ought never by any act of intemperance to disqualify himself for the employment. In neglecting to do that which is intrusted to his care he may  
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not only injure those who are his immediate employers but the mischief may extend still further; as there are in all human concerns approximate causes, which, though from their remoteness not directly visible, may suffer considerably from neglect. This crime, for such it certainly is, I am aware is attributable to the greatest part of the servants of the present day, and the ruin of many tradesmen and those concerned in business, is more frequently effected by the neglect and improvident care of their domesticks than by any flagitious actions of their own. And what let me ask is the great difference between the servant who sees the property of his master wasted for want of due care and management, and the robber who with a rude and boisterous arm enforces from the unwary traveller the wealth he has attained by industry and labour? It is true there is no law to punish the neglect of a servant, but it is not, on this account, the less atrocious. In short the servant who neglects his duty, or is negligent of his master's property is morally a dishonest man, and as much an object of abhorrence as the condemned felon.

But to return to the narrative of this voyage  
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the master and crew profuse in their acknowledgment of thanks to their deliverer, who declared himself sufficiently rewarded in having been instrumental to their deliverance. He said that he had himself been in a similar predicament, had received the same assistance, and he thought it would be the very height of wickedness not to have attempted their rescue. It seems this man had passed them the preceding evening, but it blew so hard that he could not come near, and was therefore under the necessity himself of making the harbour, as his small sloop could not bear such a sea. As soon as day-light returned and the water was become somewhat calmer, he put out again in search of them, for he apprehended they would be run on shore, and was returning with the idea they had foundered at sea, when fortunately they discovered the men on the masts, and came in time to save them from impending ruin.

This voluntary act of friendship and humanity placed the fisherman in a very noble point of view, and again called forth expressions of gratitude from the storm-beat crew. But the friendship of this man did not end here; he took them to his house, furnished them with every

every necessary to recruit their exhausted strength, and afterwards assisted them in a fruitless attempt to recover a part of the wreck. Through his assistance also a collection was made for the crew among the neighbouring gentry and farmers, and a sufficient sum procured to convey them to London. Thus was poor Tom Tackle again set on foot and though persecuted by the fiend misfortune was still enabled to bear up in life's rear.

As soon as Tom hailed London he immediately set about seeking for a fresh birth: but from the vast number of seamen then out of employ, he remained a long time on his own hands. His money was nearly exhausted, and though some of his former companions had gratitude enough to acknowledge the obligations which they owed to his friendship, and generosity enough to repay the favour, yet these were few to the number who put on the face of forgetfulness, and, like himself were too poor to afford him any essential service. When Tom was flush of money, no man was seemingly more beloved, and no man had a more numerous acquaintance; and when his improvident generosity had stript him of every penny, no man was more shunned, or had fewer friends. Still this ingratitude of his fellow-men, though repeatedly

repeatedly experienced, in the course of his voyage through life, was unable to remove from his breast the generous glow of benevolence, or to render his heart callous to the sufferings of humanity. If ever the precept which our great teacher taught was strictly followed by frail mortal, honest TACKLE was the man. He invariably returned *good for evil*, and not only *forgave* the injuries he received, but also *forgot* them.

In the interim between his arrival in London and his obtaining a birth ; Tom suffered many hardships. His money was all gone, and though he endeavoured, as much as man could do, to get employment, yet it was all to no purpose. Nor was he singular in his misfortunes ; many a strong and able seaman was starving in idleness. And here one cannot help regretting that no better provision has been made by government for those brave fellows, whose lives have been exposed in the defence of their king and country when their service is rendered no longer necessary. An officer when peace is restored, has a decent sufficiency in his half pay ; but the poor sailor is sent adrift with only Greenwich, if he can get it, and is left to earn a livelihood in those employments, for which the very nature of his avocation renders

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him totally unfit. This, however, is a defect which we must leave to time to remove; and as the executive power has shewn a disposition to ameliorate the condition of this description of persons in some particulars, we may reasonably hope that they will extend it to others.

Without money, almost without friends, and unemployed, poor Tom dragged on a life of penury and sorrow. The day was spent in a fruitless search after a birth, and the night passed in deploring his unfortunate situation, and planning schemes which he was never able to execute. At last fortune, weary of persecuting the unfortunate mariner, introduced him to the notice of the master of a Dublin trader, with whom he engaged for a voyage for little more than his keep.

Tom had never been in Ireland before, and when he returned to England, he gave a very curious account of the metropolis of that kingdom. The first thing, he said to those who questioned him about this place, that took his attention upon entering Dublin, was the singular appearance of the women, who walk the streets without either hat or bonnet on their head. Nor is this custom wholly confined to the

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the lower order of the inhabitants; for even many of genteel appearance parade about in this manner, and it is as remarkable to see a woman in Dublin with a hat on, as to see one in London with her head uncovered. The general appearance of the place and its inhabitants, is wretchedness combined with grandeur and idleness with extravagance. Nor is this the habit of a few; it is the characteristic of the whole nation: a popular concern to unite at once every species of dissipation, filthiness, and extortion; and this will strike a stranger the more forcible, as it is found where he would least expect it.

The streets and avenues of this city are crowded with the most miserable objects, whose importunate clamours for charity are troublesome in the highest degree. In the environs are seen numbers of dirty wretches, whose sole employment seems to consist in divesting each other of filth and vermin. If you enter any place, a croud of these poor wretches infest the door, through which you must pass, and he is fortunate indeed who escapes the vermin which are crawling about them. In short, Tom observed, that though he had visited many countries, and made many obser-

yations upon them, yet he never was in one that betrayed such a mixture of lousiness and laziness, misery and magnificence.

Such was the account which Tom gave of Dublin and its inhabitants, which, however unfavourable it may appear, contain certain and uncontrovertible truths. But notwithstanding that he had imbibed a dislike to the Irish people, he was always on good terms with them; and never treated them either with contempt or insult. He made several successful voyages from London to Dublin touching at several other sea ports in that kingdom, in each successive one of which the captain was so well satisfied with his abilities and industry, that he increased his wages, and took every opportunity of paying him all the respect in his power. His fellow-sailors also were great admirers of Tom's good nature and honest disposition; and in this, as well as in all other ships'-companys that he had sailed with, he had the satisfaction of being esteemed, and living in the highest harmony and friendship. But Tom, who was never a great favourite of fortune, shortly after experienced another change. The captain that he had sailed under, was taken ill while

while laying in the river, and soon after died; the vessel was paid off, and he was again adrift. His situation at this time, however, was better than it had been on similar occasions; he had plenty of money, was well cloathed, and wanted for nothing. As soon as he left the ship he sought out his former acquaintances, nay, such was the simplicity of his nature, even those very companions who, in his former necessities, refused him relief, and even shunned his company.

Among other places which he visited was the house kept by the *gentle* dame, who had treated him with so much tenderness and esteem while his money lasted; and whose fondness decreased as his pocket became less valuable. When he entered this house the good woman immediately exclaimed, "As I live and am an honest woman, here is my old friend and acquaintance Mr. Tackle!" and then ran to salute him.

The reader will easily imagine why Tom met with so flattering a reception. His appearance was such as announced him not destitute of the rhino: and it was to the supposition that he was well supplied with the

one thing needful that urged the friendly landlady to express her happiness at seeing her *old friend Mr. Tackle*. This supposition of this accommodating fair one was soon realized, by Tom's calling for a crown bowl of punch to treat some sailors with who were sitting in the tap-room ; and of whom it seems he had not the least knowledge ; but they were sailors, and that was a sufficient recommendation to his notice.

In proportion as Tom's generosity increased, the landlady redoubled her civilities, and so wheedled herself into the heart of the unsuspecting fellow, that after a few glasses of liquor he began to find his former partiality return ; and she, who sold her favours to the highest bidder, shewed no resistance to the amorous propensities of her former lover. The vulgar phrase of Tom Tackle was now changed to the more soft and polite appellation of Mr. Tackle ; the best bed in the house Molly was ordered to get ready for him ; indeed Mr. Tackle generally began and ended every sentence spoken by this accommodating dame. But alas ! this civility was but of short duration, and the harsh-sounding epithet Tom, was soon substituted for the  
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affected title of *Master*. Why and wherefore this metamorphosis was effected the reader will be informed in the succeeding chapter, to which we intreat his attention.



LIFE AND ADVENTURES, &c.

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CHAP. VI.

*The beginning of this chapter discovers Tom Tackle in a state of harmony with his Wapping-mistress, which proves of short duration.—He goes to India; and in his voyage back, while laying at the Cape, is miraculously saved by the intrepidity of a planter.—Meets with an old shipmate at the Cape, who brings Tom home;—retires from the service and takes Tom with him, allowing him a suitable provision for his support:—Tom shews his skill and ingenuity in the embarking of the cavalry at Black-wall, which saves a horse's life; and concludes.*

THE attention which the artful and designing Wappinger paid Tom, lulled him into a state of fond credulity, which, however, was



was not of long duration, and from which adversity soon roused him. He had now lived in the house near two months, in the utmost harmony; and as Tom was profuse in spending his money, the good woman was equally liberal of her smiles and caresses. At length, however, this dream of happiness was ended. Tom was again poor, and was again despised. He then, as before, flew from the ingrate, and, far as he was advanced in years, engaged in another voyage to India.

In the variety of voyages he had made, Tom, notwithstanding that he had suffered many hardships, and was often in danger of losing his life, was always more or less successful: in this fortune seemed to forsake him. Returning home; and while he lay at anchor in the Cape, he had nearly lost his life, when he was miraculously saved by the intrepidity of one of the planters belonging to the place. The means of his rescue is recorded by Mr. PAGE, in his Travels round the World; and that it may not suffer by the weakness of expression, I shall relate the anecdote in the author's own words, who says

"I should have found it difficult to give credit, had it not happened at this place the evening

evening before my arrival ; and if, besides the public notoriety of the fact, I had not been an eye-witness of those vehement emotions of sympathy, blended with admiration, which it had justly excited in the mind of every individual at the Cape."

"A violent gale of wind setting in from north north west, a vessel in the road dragged her anchors, was forced upon the rocks, and bulged ; and while the greater part of the crew fell an immediate sacrifice to the waves, the remainder were seen from the shore struggling for their lives by clinging to different pieces of the wreck. The sea ran dreadfully high, and broke over the sailors with such amazing fury, that no boat whatever would venture to their assistance. Meanwhile a planter, considerably advanced in life, had come from his farm to be a spectator of the shipwreck ; his heart was melted at the sight of the unhappy seamen ; but knowing the bold and enterprising spirit of his horse, and his particular excellence as a swimmer, he instantly determined to make a desperate effort for their deliverance. He alighted and blew a little brandy up his horse's nostrils, when again seating himself firm in his saddle, he instantly rushed

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ed into the midst of the breakers. At first both disappeared; but it was not long before they floated on the surface, and swam to the wreck; when taking with him two men, each of whom held by one of his boots, he brought them safe to shore. This perilous experiment he repeated no seldomer than seven times, and saved fourteen lives to the public; but on his return the eighth time, his horse being much fatigued, and meeting a most formidable wave, he lost his balance, and was overwhelmed in a moment. The horse swam safe to land, but his gallant rider, alas! was no more."

Of the fourteen lives thus saved, honest Tom Tackle was one; who no sooner saw the fate of his brave deliverer, than he fell into the most extravagant fit of grief and sorrow, and was actually several days confined to his bed from the effects which these emotions occasioned. Indeed the ~~fate~~ of the intrepid planter was deeply regretted by all who were eye-witnesses of the melancholy catastrophe; and will, to the latest hour of time, continue to draw from the feeling heart the sigh of pity.

When Tom was sufficiently recovered, he  
began

began to look out for a vessel, on board which he might get a passage to England; and in a few days an homeward-bound India-man touched at the Cape; the captain of whom had formerly been a shipmate of Tom's, and immediately recognized his person. In this ship Tom returned to England, fully resolved to go to sea no more. But how was he to earn a livelihood? His youth had been wasted in the service, without the attainment of a provision for age. This provision he might have possessed had it not been for his improvident generosity, which led him always to consider the wants and necessities of other people, before those of his own. This failing his fellow ship-mate, the captain, was well acquainted with; and as he himself having realized a handsome fortune, intended to retire from the service, and had taken a house in the county of Kent, there to finish in a quiet retirement, the remainder of his life; he also determined to provide in the same manner for Tom; setting apart a weekly allowance for his support, which was too little for him to be prodigal, and too much to be poor.

Thus then honest Tackle met a deserving provision for the infirmities of old age; and  
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was situgly situated near the habitation of a friend, with whom he could converse on former difficulties, while he laughed at the care they created.

Before I close the history of Tom Tackle, there is one anecdote that occurs to my memory, which as it reflects no inconsiderable share of merit on his skill and ingenuity as a seaman, and shews that he had seen service, I cannot resist giving to my readers. There is also another circumstance which very much urges me to commit it to the press; viz. that of its recent performance. The occasion which called for this skill and this ingenuity, is fresh in the mind of every one, and form an interesting period in the annals of this country.

At the commencement of the present war, the troops which were drafted to serve on the continent, were ordered to embark at PERRY'S Dock, *Blackwall*: to which place they were attended by his majesty, several of the royal family, and a great many of the principle nobility and gentry; together with many thousand spectators. Indeed it was a very-noble sight, and well-calculated both from its novelty, and the importance of the  
I occasion

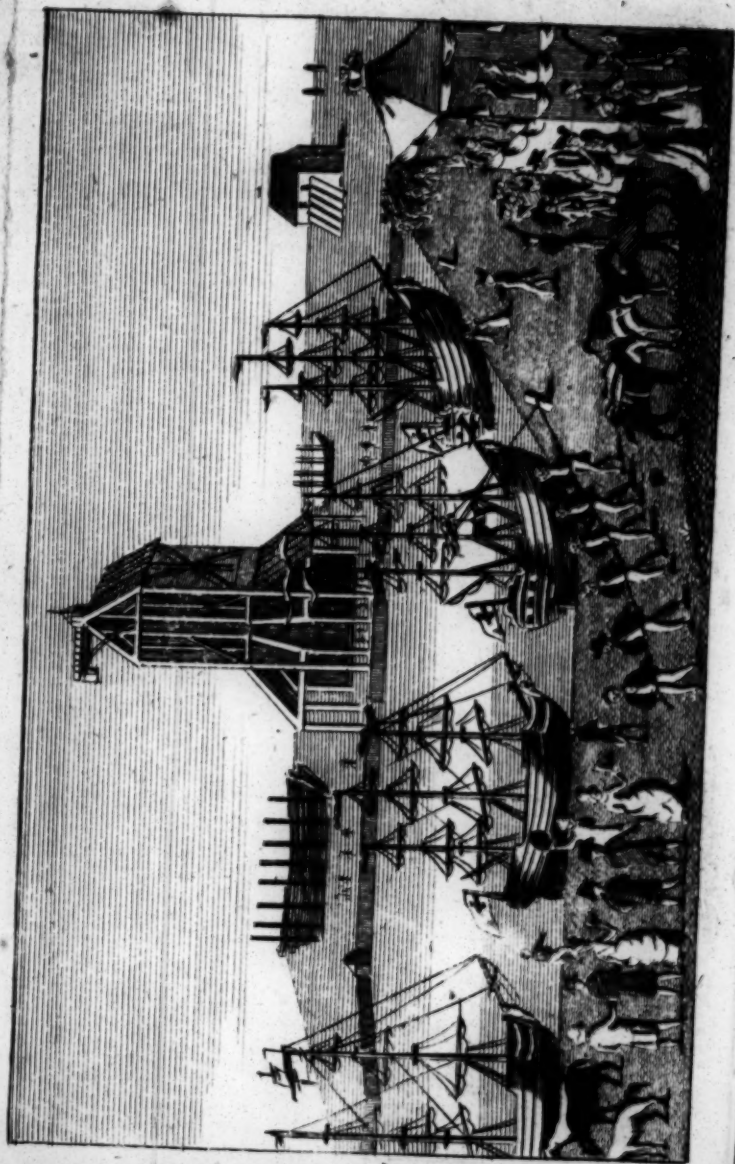
occasion to attract a croud. The number of cavalry embarked at this time was 1000, and which was effected in so small a space of time as half an hour. But during this ceremony, either from the over-vigilance of the soldiers, who were holding on at the snatch-block, or some other untoward accident, the tackle got foul, and a very fine horse was suspended in the air for full twenty minutes. Every exertion was tried by those employed in the business of embarkation, but unhappily without effect: and the loss of the horse appeared inevitable, when Tom, who, though deemed too old for servitude had got some share of strength left, and whose skill in these affairs was not in the least impaired by age, being at that time on board from curiosity, ascended the main stay, and by a successful effort of strength, combined with practical skill, rescued the poor animal from his perilous situation, and the danger (*see the plate*) that threatened him, and safely deposited him in the hold of the vessel, to the great satisfaction of the anxious spectators, who gave him three loud huzzas on the occasion.

To this applause succeeded the thanks of the master of the transport, and the officers of the



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the regiment embarked on board, which were attended with a very handsome gratuity, which Tom, so far from keeping himself, as he thought he had done nothing more than his duty, and consequently was not deserving any reward, immediately distributed in liquors among those on board; drinking a health to the king, and success to his forces

This transaction was not unknown to his friend; who as well as Tackle had been drawn there to see the fight, and for the service which he rendered on this occasion, and the disinterestedness of conduct which he displayed, gave him a double allowance of grog at night, and sent him to bed quite mellow, with a heart full of loyalty to his sovereign, and love for his country; after chaunting his two following favorite airs, viz.

**G**OD save great George our King,  
Long live our noble King,

*God save the King!*

*Send him victorious,*

*Happy and glorious,*

*Long to reign over us,*

*God save our King!*

O Lord our God arise,  
Scatter his Enemies,

And make them fall!

Confound their politics,  
Frustrate their knavish tricks,  
On George our hopes are fixt,  
God save us all!

Thy choicest gifts in store,  
On George be pleas'd to pour,

Long may he reign!

May he defend our laws,

And ever give us cause

To sing with heart and voice

God save the King!

WHEN Britons first at heav'n's command,  
Arose from out the azure main,  
This was the charter, the charter of the land,  
And guardian Angels sung the strain.

"Rule Britannia, Britannia rule the waves,

"For Britons never will be slaves.

The nations not so blest as thee,  
Must in their turns to tyrants fall,

While

*Whilst thou shalt flourish great and free,  
The dread and envy of them all.*

*Still more majestic thou shalt rise,  
More dreadful from each foreign stroke,  
And the loud blasts that tear the skies,  
Serve but to root thy native oak.*

*Thee, haughty tyrants ne'er shall tame,  
All their attempts to pull thee down,  
Will but arouse thy generous flame,  
And work their woe and thy renown.*

*To thee belongs the rural plain,  
Thy cities shall with commerce shine,  
And thine shall be the subject of the main,  
And every shrine encircle thine.*

*The Muses still with freedom found,  
Shall to thy happy shore repair,  
Blest isle! with matchless beauty crown'd,  
And manly hearts to guard the fair.*

*Britons strike home, revenge revenge  
Your country's wrongs;  
Fight, fight and record, fight, fight, fight,  
Fight and record yourselves in Druid's songs.*

Thus we see, whether in service or out of service, honest Tom Tackle was always ready to give assistance where it was wanted. He was one who never refused to do a good office: to serve and benefit his friends he would have sacrificed his own interest, and even his enemies very often derived assistance from his generous and placid disposition, which was always alert to forgive an injury, and never sought to revenge it.

Secure from the attacks of misfortune, and guarded from the horrors of want, Tom now finds himself safe in the bosom of content, near the residence of his old shipmate, where he passes his time in telling to the rustics of the place, the adventures of his youth, talks of battles won, of storms and hurricanes that endangered his life, and of *hair-breadth escapes* which he had passed. He reads to them at the village ale house; the weekly paper, comments on the progress of the war, which he heartily wishes at end, and breathes a sigh for those who are exposed to its horrors.

To all his friends he makes stated visits, and whenever he comes is treated with respect. Indeed



Indeed who can but esteem a man of Tom Tackle's disposition; which though it contained many particles to excite censure, possessed a greater number that deserved applause. Credulity frequently misled his judgment, and the benevolence of his heart was too violent to listen to the admonitions of prudence: but whenever this was the case, the error was attributable only to his head, his heart was untainted by vice; and when reflection has urged a retrospect of his past life, he has frequently been heard to declare that there was no part in it which he could not contemplate with pleasure, if the fault of quitting his apprenticeship was excepted; and even this he had endeavored to amend by his subsequent return to his master, and fulfilling the terms of his indentures.

Had this poor fellow been prudent as he was generous; or in other words had he possessed the power of discrimination to an extent equal with his benevolence, he would not, perhaps, have owed his support in old age to the bounty of another: for certain it is, the sums which he profusely lavished on those whose idleness and depravity ill-merited assistance, had they been husbanded in a proper manner, would

would have afforded him an ample provision for the necessities and wants of declining age.

But as these are reflections which never engage Tom's attention, so they cannot diminish his felicity, and whether giving or receiving a benefit he is equally happy.

But the reader, perhaps, will like to be informed who the person was to whom Tom owed his present good fortune; and I am happy in having it in my power to satisfy his inquiry; as in so doing I shall exhibit, in the person of another **BRITISH TAR** the portrait of **GRATITUDE**.

In the 4th chapter of this book the reader will recollect that the ship on which Tom was on board in a voyage from Jamaica, by being over-laden had nearly foundered in a gale of wind, but was miraculously saved by the whimsical occurrence of Tom's ~~su~~int, which he had hung by a tow-line at the side of the vessel, being sucked into the leak; and that prior to this circumstance, his skill and exertions had recommended him to the notice of the captain; who from this moment conceived a great liking to him; which a strict observation of his future conduct and disposition ripened into the most perfect

perfect friendship and esteem. In this man the reader will behold the friend of Tackle. He then plainly saw the failings as well as the goodness of Tom's heart, and regretted that he possessed so little knowledge of the world, seeing that the lustre of his benevolence was often tarnished by the indiscriminate manner in which it was bestowed. The portion of such an one in old age he well knew would be that of poverty, and that those to whom he now gave so liberally, whatever might be their situation, would look upon him with an eye of indifference, and though fortune should bless them with ability, they would want the inclination to relieve his necessities,

These considerations made him determine on being himself his patron, as soon as fortune, (for he was not at that time very rich) should give him an opportunity of effecting his laudable design. On his arrival from every voyage he made enquiries after Tom, and still found him the same generous thoughtless fellow. At length that happy period arrived, which he had so long anticipated, when he was to bid adieu to the turbulent main, and retire with his family into the bosom of peace. As soon as he had fixed himself, his next care was to find out  
Tom

Tom; but some months elapsed before he succeeded in his search; and when this event took place, his appearance indicated the most extreme poverty and distress.

After the ungenerous treatment of his Wapping-dame, on whom, and her customers he lavished the gains of his last voyage, he retired into an obscure pot-house, nearer the bridge; his days were spent in a fruitless search after employment, and his nights in lamenting the folly of his past conduct, and execrating the ingratitude of the world. Every article of his wearing apparel had been parted with for the support of nature, and after long forbearance the landlord had shut the door against him. In this forlorn plight he was wandering the streets when his present friend the captain met, accosted, and took him home with him, where he has ever since resided in a snug little cot near the house of his patron, from whom he received a weekly stipend; just sufficient for his support, and to satisfy every want; and as the song says "Just enough to be generous, too much to be poor."

Tom

**T**OM TACKLE was noble, was true to his word,

If merit bought titles, Tom might be a Lord,  
How gaily his bark thro' life's ocean would sail,  
Truth furnished the rigging, and honor the gale;  
Yet Tom had a failing, if ever man had,  
That good as he was, made him all that was bad;  
He was pally and pitiful, scurvy and mean  
And the swiftest scoundrel that ever was seen,  
For so said the girls, and the landlord's long score,  
Would you know what this fault was, Tom Tackle  
was poor.

'Twas once on a time when we took a galloon,  
And the crew touch'd the agent for cash to some  
tune,

Tom a trip took to jail an old messmate to free,  
And four thankful prattlers soon sat on his knee;  
Then Tom was an angel, downright from Heaven  
sent,

While they'd hands be his goodness should never  
repent;

Return'd from next voyage he bemoan'd his sad case  
To find his dear friend shut the door in his face;  
Why d'ye wonder, cry'd one, you're serv'd right  
to be sure,

Once Tom Tackle was rich, now Tom Tackle is  
poor.

I ben'

I be'n't, ye see, warr'd in high maxims and sitch,  
But don't this same honor concern poor and rich?  
If it don't come from good hearts, I can't see where  
from,

And, dam'me! if e'er tar had a good heart,  
'twas Tom.

Yet somehow or other, Tom never did right.  
None knew better the time when to spare or to fight,  
He by finding a leak once preserv'd crew and ship,  
Sav'd the commodore's life, then he made such rare  
ship;

And yet for all this no one Tom could endure,  
I fancy as how 'twas because he was poor.

At last an old shipmate, that Tom might bail land,  
Who saw that his heart sail'd too fast for his hand,  
In the riding of comfort a mooring to find,  
Reef'd the sails of Tom's fortune which shook in  
the wind;

He gave him enough thro' life's ocean to steer,  
Be the breeze what it might, ready thus or no near,  
His pittance is daily, and yet Tom imparts  
What he can to his friends, and may all honest hearts  
Like Tom Tackle have what keeps the wolf from  
the door,

Just enough to be generous, too much to be poor.

MUSEUM  
BRITAN



